

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN/BZE:GAGOWEN:RP

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:MWEISSMAN (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 239683

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, BH

SUBJECT: PROPOSED GOB CONTRACT WITH WARREN K. BASS

REFS: (A) BELIZE 795, (B) BELIZE 726, (C) STATE 190873

1. INQUIRIES HERE INDICATE BASS HAS GENERALLY AND CONSISTENTLY MISREPRESENTED HIS ASSOCIATION WITH HIS PURPORTED CONTACTS BOTH HERE AND IN BELIZE. CONGEN SHOULD CONSIDER INFORMING GOB DISCREETLY THAT BASS APPEARS TO HAVE LITTLE TO OFFER BY WAY OF EITHER EXPERTISE OR PURPORTED "INFLUENCE" WITH USG OR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

2. AS NOTED IN REFTTEL C, BASS EARLIER MISREPRESENTED NATURE OF HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH CONGRESSMAN MILLS. WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT SAME HOLDS TRUE FOR HIS DEALINGS WITH MARTIN RYAN HALEY AND ASSOCIATES (MRH), MENTIONED IN REFTTEL A. MRH HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT BASS HAS NO ASSOCIATION WITH THEM AND, SO FAR AS THEY ARE CONCERNED, NO INVOLVEMENT IN THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH GOB (RESTRICTED TO HUNTER, SO FAR). BASS AND HUNTER APPROACHED THE FIRM ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE EARLIER THIS YEAR, PROPOSING THAT MRH

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UNDERTAKE CERTAIN ACTIVITIES FOR THE GOB. AFTER FIRM

DECLINED TO CONSIDER WORKING THROUGH BASS, HE REPORTEDLY

BEGAN TO HAND OUT MRH'S TELEPHONE NUMBER HERE AND ELSEWHERE, IMPLYING HE COULD BE REACHED THERE AND WAS WORKING WITH MRH TO DEVELOP PROJECTS FOR GOB. MRH DENIES EMPHATICALLY THAT ANY OF THIS IS TRUE.

3. WORLD BANK'S CARIBBEAN DIVISION HAS BEEN CONTACTED TWICE BY BASS AND HUNTER THIS YEAR REGARDING POSSIBLE FUNDING FOR PORT AND AIRPORT PROJECTS IN BELIZE. BANK STAFF REPORTS BASS WAS ENTIRELY IGNORANT OF PROPER PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IN BRINGING SUCH PROJECTS BEFORE THE BANK, AND WAS NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY IN ANY CASE. SIMILAR IMPRESSION CREATED IN DEPARTMENT WHEN BASS VISITED ARA AUGUST 24 TO INQUIRE ABOUT ARMS PURCHASES (MEMCONS POUCHES SEPARATELY TO CONGEN).

4. TO SUM UP, BASS' VAUNTED CONTACTS AND ABILITY TO OBTAIN CONCESSIONARY FINANCING FOR GOB APPEAR TO BE A LARGELY CLUMSY ATTEMPT AT SELF-PROMOTION. IF THIS IMPRESSION CAN BE CONVEYED TO GOB DISCREETLY IN ANSWER TO THEIR INQUIRY, GOB IS LIKELY TO SAVE BOTH FUNDS AND SUBSTANTIAL EMBARRASSMENT. KISSINGER

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